

Rev. Justus Mitchell

Newbury

Doctor DANA'S

SERMON

ON THE

African Slave Trade.

1790.

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THE AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE.

A

DISCOURSE

DELIVERED IN THE CITY OF NEW-HAVEN,

SEPTEMBER 9, 1790,

BEFORE

THE CONNECTICUT' SOCIETY

FOR

THE PROMOTION OF FREEDOM.

BY JAMES DANA, D. D.

PASTOR OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

CHURCH IN SAID CITY.

NEW - HAVEN:

PRINTED BY THOMAS AND SAMUEL GREEN.

M,DCC,XCI.

At a Meeting of the Connecticut Society
for the Promotion of Freedom, &c.

VOTED, That the Thanks of this
Society be returned to the Rev.
Doctor DANA, for the instructive Ser-
mon which he delivered before the So-
ciety on the 9th Day of September
1790, and that the President request
a Copy thereof that it may be printed.

*A true Extract from the Records,
Examined by*

SIMEON BALDWIN, Sec'y.

Epistle to the Galatians, IV. 31.

So then, brethren, we are not children of the bond-woman, but of the free.

THE churches of Galatia consisted principally of Jewish converts, who were engaged to incorporate the Mosaic ritual with the Christian profession. They boasted, at the same time, "We be Abraham's children, and were never in bondage." With great address and pertinency St. Paul reminds them, "Abraham had two sons; one by a bond-maid, the other by a free-woman." These were emblems of the *two covenants*. Ishmael, by Hagar the bond-woman, represented the Sinai covenant; Isaac, by Sarah the free-woman, represented the Abrahamic covenant. The former was local and temporary, founded in worldly promises, had burthensome appendages, and only a shadow of heavenly things. The latter was universal and permanent, a covenant of better hopes, and stripped of that ceremonial which was a yoke of bondage.

The apostle hath described the Christian church in distinction from the Jewish thus: The Jews under Moses were like an heir in his minority, who is under tutors and governors. The law was a school-master to bring them to Christ. He came to redeem them that were under the law; that they might be no longer servants, but sons; heirs of full age, heirs of God through Christ. "Now we, brethren, are the children of promise, as was Isaac," with whom the covenant of better hopes was established.

fished. *We are not children of the bond-woman, but of the free.*

The apostle proceeds : "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." The Sinai' covenant was subservient to the Abrahamic, till the seed promised to Abraham came. When this seed came, that covenant had answered its purpose, and gave place to a more liberal one. The Jewish converts acknowledged that this seed was come : But they encroached on the liberty of their fellow-Christians, by attempting to compel their observance of the abrogated ordinances of Moses. This was *falling from grace*, cutting themselves off from the privileges of the children of the free-woman, and desiring again to be in bondage to weak and beggarly rudiments : It was returning to a state of minority, after the time appointed of the father for their majority and freedom.

The apostle further acquaints them, that "the blessing of Abraham was come on the GENTILES through Jesus Christ." For the promise was thus expressed : "In thee shall all nations be blessed." There is therefore no difference, under the Christian institution, between Jews and other nations. The latter, though by nature in bondage, are made equally free of the family of Christ as the former. This is the fulfilment of the prediction, "I will call them my people, which were not my people ; and her beloved, which was not beloved. Where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people, there shall they be called the children of the living God." The text, though immediately addressed to Jewish believers, is equally applicable to believing Gentiles. *These* are not, any more than *those*, children of the bond-woman, but of the free. They are "all one in Christ Jesus—children of God, whether Jew

Jew or Greek, bond or free, male or female—If Christ's, then Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

Christian freedom, being alike the privilege of converts from Judaism and heathenism, primarily intends, on the part of the former, the abolition of the encumbered ritual of Moses ; and, on the part of the latter, liberation from idolatrous superstition, to which they were in servile subjection : On the part of both it intends deliverance from the slavery of vicious passions.

When Christ appeared, the whole world were sunk in ignorance and wickedness. The Gentiles, *professing themselves to be wise, knew not God*, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator. They were vassals to the prince of the power of the air. The Christian dispensation, accompanied with the holy Ghost sent down from heaven, called them out of darkness into marvellous light ; they were turned from dumb idols, from the power of Satan, from worldly pollutions, to serve the living God. The Jewish church had corrupted and made void the law of God. Their guides taught for doctrines the commandments of men, perverted to a worldly sense the promises of spiritual redemption, and imposed a greater burthen of ceremonies than Moses had enjoined. Christ removed the vail of Moses, *consecrated a new and living way* to God, rescued the precepts of the decalogue from the glosses of blind and interested guides, and disburthened religion of that weight under which it had groaned. *His yoke is easy, and his burthen light. Where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty* in the highest sense. The spirit of life in Christ removes the dominion of sin. His disciples, made free from sin, *walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit. There is no condemnation*

to them. Thus emancipated, they "wait for the hope of righteousness by faith—the redemption of the body." When made free of the kingdom promised them, sin and the curse, pain, sorrow, death shall be no more. How glorious this liberty!

Further : Christianity is a *reasonable service*, and founded in personal persuasion. It permits us to "call no man master ; for one is our master, even Christ ;" to whom alone every one must stand or fall. His religion is friendly to free enquiry : It directs us to "prove all things"—to claim the liberty of grounding our faith, not on the wisdom of man, but the power of God ; and to allow others the same. Our liberty may not be judged of their consciences, nor their liberty of our conscience. They who are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak ; and should take heed lest by any means their liberty, their improved knowledge in Christianity, should be a stumbling block to uninformed minds. "Use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. There is one body, and one spirit, and we are called in one hope. One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all."

How then should different professors, and different denominations, endeavour to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace, with all meekness, humility and charity ? The body of Christ is one, and hath many members. The members then "should have the same care one for another. If one suffer, all the members should suffer with it ; or if one be honoured, all the members should rejoice with it." Those are *carnal, and walk as men*, who contend for the system of this or that man, or body of men. The children of the bond-woman would exclude from the privileges of the Christian church, and doom to eternal chains, such as do

not

not embrace the faith or opinions they hold : But the children of the free-woman *have not so learned Christ*. The simplicity and perspicuity of this heavenly institution, designed to guide men of common understanding in the paths of salvation, can derive no assistance from speculations too high for the generality of mankind—too high also for those who exercise themselves therein.

In going off from one extreme, let us shun the other. “We are called unto liberty :” Should it be an occasion of infidelity and indifference to all religion, the guilt and shame must be aggravated. The real friends of liberty always distinguish between freedom and licentiousness. They know that the mind cannot be free, while blinded by sceptical pride, or immersed in sensuality. Liberty consists not in subverting the foundations of society, in being without law. Nor doth it consist in reasoning against God, and providence, and revelation. Nor in attempting to explain his nature, his government, and the secret things which belong to him.

Christian liberty supposeth that we receive the record which God hath given of his Son—that we be not the servants of sin, but have our fruit unto holiness—that we abide in our callings.

Lastly, The spirit of Christianity hath the best aspect on general liberty and the rights of mankind. Would we persuade men to *look, not on their own things, but on the things of others*, let us set before them the pattern of Christ. Was ever grace or liberality like his, “who though he was rich, for our sakes became poor, that we through his poverty might be rich ?” He was “in the form of God, —but took upon him the form of a servant.” He “came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and gave his life” to purchase spiritual and eternal redemption for the slaves of Satan. Possibly for a

friend, or a *good* man, some might dare to die. But HE died for *enemies*, for the *ungodly*. Is it glorious to die for one's *country*? HE died for all the *world*. Were the same mind in us, we should love all mankind, and do good to all as we have opportunity. They who hate and persecute us would be the objects of our good wishes and forgiveness. We should pray, "Father, forgive them." We should have compassion on them, as the good Samaritan had on the Jew whom he found helpless and ready to perish. Every natural and friendly, every private and public affection is cherished and improved by looking unto Jesus. And if we speak of universal philanthropy, how doth every example fade before his? He is not ashamed to call mankind his brethren. His love to them was stronger than death, when they had forfeited the privileges of children, and might have been consigned, with apostate spirits, to chains and blackness of darkness. They owe all the liberty they have or hope for to his friendship.

Where the spirit of Christ is, there is no envy, strife or confusion; no discord and war; no invasion of the rights of others, either those of individuals, or of societies and nations; but meekness, peace, and harmony, joy in the happiness, and commiseration of the distresses of others. This spirit doth no ill to others, but all possible good. Rulers, under its influence, are not oppressors, but benefactors. Subjects do not resist lawful authority; but render tribute, custom, fear, honour to whom they are due, leading a quiet life in godliness and honesty. When the spirit of Christianity shall universally prevail, as our hope is that it will, nations will "learn war no more; they shall not hurt nor destroy in all God's holy mountain."

Our Lord undertook not to say what men's personal

sonal and civil rights are—what the prerogatives of princes, or the sovereign power of a nation, and what the privileges of subjects. He left civil distinctions among men as he found them. He taught his disciples to “render to Cesar the things that are Cesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”

Among other relative duties, his religion particularly requires of *servants*, that they *be subject to their masters with all fear ; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward : Shewing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things. Let every man wherein he is called, therein abide with God. Let as many servants as are under the yoke, account their own masters worthy of all honor, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed. And they that have believing masters, let them not despise them, because they are brethren.*

Revelation has not informed us, what form of government is best adapted to answer the ends of society. Every form must be some abridgment of natural liberty. Our being social creatures; our dependence on one another, shew that government is the will of the Creator. The original form was probably patriarchal. The theocracy of the Jews was appropriate to them. Monarchy was a subversion of their constitution. No other form than theirs can be pronounced *divine*. Nations have a right to institute such form as they chuse. The government of most nations, therefore, hath been mere usurpation. Far from being sanctioned by divine authority, we might rather consider the permission of such government as his greatest scourge on mankind.

Relying on the candor which I need from my present auditory, I address myself more particularly to the design of our coming together.

A manner of address calculated to inflame the passions would neither become my station, nor be respectful to an audience well acquainted with the rights of men and citizens, educated in principles of liberty.

The *Africans* belong to the families for whom heaven designed a participation in the blessing of Abraham. We need not discuss the question, what the state of those, whom the Europeans have enslaved, was antecedently to such their slavery. It is more proper to enquire when and how the African slave-trade commenced—what nations have engaged in it—in what manner they have carried it on—what the probable numbers they have reduced to slavery—in what condition these slaves are held—and what reasons are offered in vindication of the trade.

A zeal for the discovery of new territory marked the fifteenth century. The first navigations of the Europeans for this purpose were concerted and directed by prince Henry, fourth son of John I. king of Portugal. He was born 1394. His valor in the assault and capture of the city *Ceuta* in Africa, A. D. 1415, presaged the fame he afterwards acquired. From this period he devoted himself to naval expeditions for the discovery of unknown countries. The ships he sent out subjected divers parts of Africa, and the neighbouring islands, to the dominion of Portugal. After the success in doubling cape *Bojador*, he gave to his father and his successors all the lands he had discovered, or might discover, and applied to pope *Martin V.* to ratify the donation. He engaged, that in all their expeditions the Portuguese should have mainly in view the extension of the Roman church and authority of its pontif. Martin granted the prince's request. In his bull of ratification, which was a-

bout

bout the year 1430, it is declared, that " whatever
 might be discovered from the said cape to the ut-
 most *India*, should pertain to the Portuguese do-
 minion." Edward, brother to prince Henry, suc-
 ceeded to the throne of Portugal 1433, on the
 death of John I. Pope *Eugene IV.* by his bull in
 1438, ratified to Edward the grant made by Mar-
 tin V. A bull of *Nicholas V.* dated January 8,
 1454, refers to the aforesaid bulls of his predeces-
 sors, Martin and Eugene. It recites the declara-
 tion prince Henry had made of his achievements
 —"*that for 25. years he had not ceased to send an-
 nually almost an army*" of Portuguese, " with the
 greatest dangers, labors and charges, in most swift
 ships, to *search out the sea and maritime provinces
 towards the southern parts and antarctic pole*" —that
 these ships " came at length to the province of
Guinea, and took possession of some islands, havens
 and sea adjoining" —that " sailing further, war was
 waged for some years with the people of those parts,
 and very many islands near thereunto were subdued
 and peaceably possessed, and still were possessed,
 with the adjacent sea" —that " many *Guineans* and
 other *negroes* were taken thence by force, and some
 by barter." The bull describes prince Henry as
 " a true foldier of Christ, a most courageous de-
 fender and intrepid champion of the faith, aspiring
 from his early youth with his utmost might to have
 the glorious name of Christ published, extolled and
 revered throughout the world." It recogniseth the
 exclusive right of Portugal to the acquisitions and
 possessions aforesaid, in virtue of the letters of Mar-
 tin and Eugene, which granted to the king of Por-
 tugal and prince Henry " free and ample faculty to
invade, search out, expugn, vanquish and subdue all
 pagans and enemies of Christ wheresoever placed,
 and their persons to reduce to perpetual slavery, and
 all

all their kingdoms, possessions and goods to *apply* and *appropriate*," &c. Pope Nicholas's letter then goes on to "decree and declare, the acquests *already* made, and what *hereafter* shall happen to be acquired, after that they shall be acquired, have pertained, and forever of right do belong and pertain, to the aforesaid king and his successors, and not to any others whatever." It forbids, on the severest penalties, all Christian powers from settling in the countries discovered by the Portuguese, or any way molesting them in their expeditions for the discovery and conquest of unknown countries. It speaks of prince Henry's plan and his prosecution of it as "a most *pious* work, and most worthy of perpetual remembrance, wherein the glory of God, with the interest of the commonwealth of the universal church are concerned."

Thus were prince Henry's views and operations sanctioned by the highest authority at that time acknowledged in Christendom. A right derived from a source so venerable was then undisputed. The Roman pontif bound princes at his pleasure; and, as vicar of Christ, was allowed to have at his disposal all the kingdoms of the earth. This grant of Nicholas was confirmed by his successor, Calixtus III. August 6, 1458.

On the death of Edward, his son Alphonso, then in his minority, succeeded to the throne of Portugal 1438, and died 1481. Prince Henry died 1460, or 1463. At his death the spirit of discovery languished; but revived with the accession of John II. son of Alphonso. John, the year after his accession, (1482) sent an embassy to Edward IV. of England, to acquaint him with the title acquired, by the pope's bull, to the conquests in Guinea; and requested him to dissolve a fleet which some English merchants were fitting for the Guinea trade.

The

The king of England shewed great respect to the ambassadors, and granted all they required. The king of Portugal assumed, and the king of England gave him, this style, *Rex Portugalie et Algarbiorum citra at ultra mare in Africa*. Pope Sixtus IV. not long before his death, which was August 12, 1484, confirmed all the grants made by his predecessors to the kings of Portugal and their successors. *

“ In 1481 John II. sent 100 artificers, 500 soldiers, and all necessaries, to build a fort in Guinea. The large kingdoms of *Benin* and *Congo* were discovered 1484, 1485 ;” and the cape of *Good-Hope* 1486. The Portuguese built forts and planted colonies in Africa ; “ established a commercial intercourse with the powerful kingdoms, and compelled the petty princes by force of arms to acknowledge themselves vassals.”

At this period, and by these means, the power and commerce of the Portuguese in Africa were well established. The wholesome decrees of five successive Roman pontiffs granted, conveyed and confirmed to the most faithful king a right to *appropriate* the kingdoms, goods and possessions of all infidels, wherever to be found, *to reduce their persons to perpetual slavery*, or *destroy* them from the earth, for the declared purpose of bringing the Lord’s sheep into one dominical fold, under one universal pastor. Succeeding kings of Portugal have not forfeited the large grant by any undutifulness to their holy father. Portugal long enjoyed the trade to Africa and the East-Indies without the interference of any European power. For more than half a century before she exported any Negroes from Africa, she made and held many of them slaves in their native country.

The

* Plantation of colonies, Part I. Sect. 26.

The Portuguese first imported slaves into *Hispaniola*, * A. D. 1508; and into their Brazilian colonies 1517. † Their sugar works were first set up in these colonies 1580. Their union with Spain at that time was most unfortunate for them. Hence the Dutch became their enemies, who took from them their East-India and Brazilian conquests, and part of their African colonies. They recovered Brazil, and their African establishments 1640; but have never recovered the riches of India.

After the Dutch quitted Brazil, and the gold mines were discovered, the trade of Portugal improved; and a great importation of slaves took place. "They carry yearly from *Loango* to the Brazils 25,000." At *Goango* "they get abundance." At cape *Lopos* they "get a great many." They themselves say, "that they carry over to Brazil 50,000 and more every year from *Melinda*" on the *Mozambique* coast. Such hath been the increase of their Brazilian and African colonies for about a century past, that they "have taken off since the year 1700 more English goods annually than Portugal and Spain had before done." ‡ From their greater dominions, and greater extent of territory, in Africa, than any other European power, this quarter of the world "is not of less consideration to them; perhaps, than to all the other powers of Europe unitedly comprehended—It supplies them with Negroes in abundance, to carry on their sugar works, mines, and planting business in the Brazils. || They

are

* It is observable, that the island which first received slaves from Africa, suffers at this time (October 1791) the most exemplary and threatening vengeance from them. How *perilous* such property!

† Brazil was discovered A. D. 1500, by *Cabral's* fleet, fitted out by John II. king of Portugal.

‡ Postlethwait, Vol. I. tit. BRAZIL.

|| Ibid. Vol. II. p. 521---524.

are said to bring annually from the Brazils £. 5,000,000 sterling in gold, coined and uncoined.”*

“ It is difficult to ascertain the number of slaves, which the Portuguese residing in Africa have in possession. Those who are least rich have fifty, an hundred, or two hundred belonging to them, and many of the most considerable possess at least three thousand. A religious society at Loanda have of their own 12,000 of all nations.” (Beawes, *lex mercatoria*, p. 790, 791.)

Spanish America hath successively received her slaves from the Genoese, Portuguese, French and English. A convention was made at London between England and Spain, A. D. 1689, for supplying the Spanish West-Indies with negro slaves from Jamaica. † The French Guinea company contracted, in 1702, to supply them with 38,000 negroes, in ten years ; and if peace should be concluded, with 48,000. In 1713 there was a treaty between England and Spain for the importation of 144,000 negroes in thirty years, or 4,800 annually. ‡ If we include those whom the Portuguese

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have

* Beawes saith, (*Lex mercatoria*) that the trade for slaves at Senegal amounts to 15,000 in a common year.” (p. 726.) At Sierra Leone “ the trade in slaves is not a little.” (p. 728.) At Des Trois Pointes the Dutch trade for “ many slaves.” In the kingdom of Ardes, &c. between three and four thousand are annually purchased. (p. 729.) On the coast of the kingdom of Benin, at Sabe, the English, French, Dutch and Portuguese “ export annually above 20,000.” (p. 730.) “ The number sent from Congo by the Portuguese is surprizingly great.” (Ibid.) “ Of all the African coasts, Angola furnisheth the Europeans with the best negroes, and commonly in the greatest quantities. Though the Portuguese are extremely powerful in the interior parts of this kingdom, yet the negro trade on the coast is free to other nations. The English, French and Dutch send yearly a great number of vessels, who carry off many thousands for their American settlements, and for sale in those of the Spaniards. There is hardly any year that the Portuguese do not ship off 15,000 for Brazil. The villages of Cambambe, Embaco and Missingomo furnish most slaves to the Portuguese merchants”---The negro trade at Longs, Malinda and Cabinda, on the Angolian coast, is not one of the least considerable that the English and Dutch are concerned in, whether for the number, strength or goodness of the slaves ---The inhabitants of the American colonies always give for them an higher price, as more able to sustain the labours and fatigues of the culture and manufacturing of sugar, tobacco, indigo, and other painful works.” (p. 731.)

† Anderson’s commerce, Vol. V. p. 120.

‡ Postlethwait, *affluent*.

have held in slavery in Africa, with the importations into South-America, *twelve millions* may be a moderate estimate from the commencement of the traffic to the present time.

We shall now attend to the importations into the West-India islands and the United States.

The English fitted out three ships for the slave trade in 1562. * For a full century this trade hath been vigorously pursued, without intermission, by England, France and Holland; as it had been long before, and continued to be, by Portugal.

“ The trade of Barbadoes, in 1661, maintained 400 sail of ships of 150 tons one with another, and 10,000 seamen. The running cash was computed at £. 200,000 at least. In 1676 this island had 80,000 negroes. In one hundred years the inhabitants of Great-Britain have received £. 12,000,000 in silver by means of this plantation. On a parliamentary enquiry into the African trade 1728; it appeared that in three years only, 42,000 slaves had been imported at Barbadoes, Jamaica and Antigua, besides what were carried to their other islands.” †

In pursuance of an order from the king of France, a survey was made in 1777, of the slaves in the French islands, when the number returned was 386,500. ‡ The council of Paris determined, that an annual importation of 20,000 was necessary to supply the annual decrease. (Anderson, Vol. V. p. 276.)

The number of slaves in the several British West-India islands is stated by Anderson at 410,000. (Vol.

* Anderson's commerce, Vol. II. p. 156.

† Postlethwait, Vol. II. p. 766.

‡ St. Domingo;	-	240,000
Martinico,	-	75,000
Guadeloupe;	-	64,000
St. Lucia,	-	4,000
Cayenne,	-	3,500

Total,	386,500
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(Vol. VI. p. 921, 922.) A later account makes them 461,669.*

"Since the peace of 1763," saith M. le Abbe Raynal, † "Great-Britain hath sent annually to the coast of Guinea 195 vessels, consisting, collectively, of 23,000 tons, and 7 or 8,000 seamen. Rather more than half, this number have sailed from Liverpool, and the remainder from London, Bristol and Lancaster. They have traded for 40,000 slaves." An average for each vessel will be 205. Postlethwait informs us, that in 1752 eighty eight vessels from Liverpool to Africa brought away 25,940 slaves. § If the Liverpool vessels brought away this number, we may suppose that those of London and Bristol made up the full number of 40,000.

M. le Abbe Raynal saith, (probably without sufficient attention, Vol. IV. p. 99.) "The trade of Africa hath never furnished the French colonies more than 13 or 14,000 slaves annually." This importation, he grants, was "*insufficient*" for her colonies. It doth not correspond to the number of slaves in them. If the trade had not furnished a sufficiency for themselves, would they have contracted to supply Spain with 4,000 slaves annually for ten successive years? "*Good judges*," saith Postlethwait, (Vol. I. p. 726.) "reckon that 30,000 negroes are annually imported into the French sugar islands." But we will suppose they import

20,000

* The account published 1791 stands thus :

Jamaica	256,000	St. Vincent	14,353
Barbadoes	62,100	Montserrat	10,000
Antigua	37,808	Nevis	8,420
Grenada	23,926	Virgin Islands	6,500
St. Christophers	20,435	Bermuda	4,919
Dominico	14,967	Bahamas	2,241

Total 461,669

† Vol. IV. p. 98.

§ Vol. I. p. 709, 710. The names of the masters, and number of slaves in each ship are inserted, 296 on an average.

20,000 into these islands. This is the importation which their council supposed requisite to supply the decrease. The general computation is *five per cent.* decrease annually.

The present number of slaves in the West-Indies is 930,669. * There are in the United States 670,633. § To this number may be added about 12,000 manumitted Africans. In all 1,613,302. Were the mortality among them as great in the five states south of Delaware as in the West-Indies, the above number could not be kept up but by an annual importation of 80,000. The probability is, that 70,000 hath been the annual average for a century at least.

In seventy seven years there were imported into Jamaica 535,549. || By the census of the United States,

* British islands	461,669
French islands	386,000
Other islands	83,000

Total 930,669.

§ In this estimate 80,000 slaves are set to South-Carolina, which hath made no return.

|| Negroes imported from Africa into Jamaica, and exported from thence yearly, between the 2d September 1702, and the 31st December 1778.

Years.	Ships.	Imports.	Exports.	Years.	Ships.	Imports.	Exports.
1702	5	843	327	1723	30	6824	4674
1703	14	2740	481	---4	25	6852	3449
1704	16	4120	221	---5	41	10297	3588
1705	16	3503	1661	---6	50	11703	4112
---6	14	3804	1036	---7	17	3876	1555
---7	15	3358	897	---8	20	5350	986
---8	23	6627	1379	---9	40	10499	4820
---9	10	2234	1275	---10	43	10104	5222
---10	15	3662	1191	---1	45	10079	5708
---11	26	6724	1532	---2	57	13552	5288
---12	15	4128	1903	---3	37	7413	5176
---13	19	4378	2712	---4	20	4570	1666
---14	24	5789	3507	---5	20	4851	2260
---15	10	2372	1089	---6	15	3943	1647
---16	24	6361	2872	---7	35	8995	2240
---17	29	7551	3153	---8	32	7695	2070
---18	27	6253	2247	---9	29	6787	598
---19	25	5120	3161	---10	27	5562	495
---20	23	5064	2815	---1	19	4255	562
---21	17	3715	1637	---2	22	5067	792
---2	41	8469	3263	---3	38	8926	1368

States, taken 1791, they contain 3,925,247 souls.*
Of these, in the states south of Delaware, more than one

Districts.	* Free white males of 16 years and upwards, in- cluding heads of families	Free white males under 16 years,	Free white females, in- cluding heads of families	All other free persons,	Slaves,	Total,
Maine,	24,384	24,748	46,870	538	None.	96,540
N. Hampshire,	36,086	34,851	70,160	630	158	141,885
Massachusetts,	95,453	87,289	190,582	5463	None.	378,787
Rhode-Island,	16,019	15,799	32,652	3407	948	68,825
Connecticut,	60,523	54,403	117,448	2808	2764	237,940
Vermont,	22,435	22,328	40,505	252	16	85,539
New-York,	83,700	78,122	152,320	4654	21,324	340,120
New-Jersey,	45,251	41,416	82,287	2762	11,453	184,139
Pennsylvania,	110,788	106,948	206,363	6537	3737	434,373
Delaware,	11,783	12,143	22,384	3899	8887	59,094
Maryland,	55,915	51,339	101,395	8043	103,036	319,728
Virginia,	110,936	116,135	215,046	12,368	292,627	747,610
N. Carolina,	69,988	77,506	140,710	4975	100,572	393,751
S. Carolina,					80,000	240,000
Georgia,	13,103	14,044	25,739	398	29,264	82,548
Kentucky,	15,154	17,057	28,922	114	12,430	73,677
S.W. Territory	6,271	10,277	15,365	361	3417	35,691
N.W. Ditto,						5,000
Total,	781,769	764,405	1,488,748	57,709	670,633	3,925,247

Years.	Ships.	Imports.	Exports.	Years.	Ships.	Imports.	Exports.
1743	38	8926	1368	1761	29	6480	642
---4	38	8755	1331	---2	24	6279	232
---5	18	3843	1344	---3	33	10079	1582
---6	16	4703	1502	---4	41	10213	2639
---7	33	10898	3378	---5	41	8931	2006
---8	39	10430	2426	---6	43	10208	672
---9	25	6858	2128	---7	19	3248	375
---50	16	3587	721	---8	27	5950	485
---1	21	4840	713	---9	19	3575	420
---2	27	6117	1038	---70	25	6824	836
---3	39	7661	902	---1	17	4183	671
---4	47	9551	1592	---2	22	5278	923
---5	64	12723	598	---3	49	9676	800
---6	46	11166	1902	---4	456	18448	2511
---7	32	7935	943	---5		16945	5272
---8	11	3405	411	---6		19231	1343
---9	18	5212	681	---7		5255	492
---60	23	7573	2368	---8		5674	734
					2436	535,549	132,115

On an average 220 slaves in each ship.

one quarter are negro slaves. In the four states next north of Maryland are 45,401 slaves. In New-England 3870. There may have been brought into all the West-India-Islands, and into the United States, from first to last, SEVEN MILLIONS. One million more must be allowed for mortality on the passage. How many have been destroyed in the collection of them in Africa, we cannot justly conjecture. It is judged that Great-Britain sustain the loss of twice as many seamen in this, as in all their other extensive trade.

We suppose, then, that eight millions of slaves have been shipped in Africa for the West-India islands and the United States; ten millions for South-America; and, perhaps, two millions have been taken and held in slavery in Africa. Great-Britain and the United States have shipped about five millions, France two, Holland and other nations one; though we undertake not to state the proportion with exactness. The other twelve millions we set to Portugal. Twenty million slaves, at £. 30 sterling each, amount to the commercial value of £. 600,000,000. *Six hundred times ten hundred thousand pounds sterling traffic in the SOULS OF MEN !!!*

By whom hath this commerce been opened, and so long and ardently pursued? The subjects of their *most faithful, most catholic, most Christian, most protestant* majesties, *defenders of the faith*; and by the citizens of the *most republican* States, with the sanction of St. *Peter's* successor. Unprovoked, without any pretended injury, *these* have kindled and kept alive the flame of war through three quarters of the continent of Africa; that is, all the interior as well as maritime parts south of Senegal and Abyssinia. *These* have taught the Africans to steal, sell and murder one another. On any or no pretence

tence the different tribes make prisoners of each other, or the chiefs seize their own people, and drive them, as herds of cattle, to market. The natives are trepanned by one another, and by the Europeans; forced from their flocks, and fields, and tenderest connexions. This vile commerce hath depopulated the sea-coast: It must now be carried on in the inland parts.

As though it were not sufficient to force the Africans from their country, and every thing dear to them, they are made to travel in irons hundreds of miles through their native soil, through sands and morasses, down to the sea shore; and there stowed, as lumber, for transportation. The cruelty of the captains of the Guinea ships, in many instances, is not inferior to that of *Clive* or *Hastings*.

The servitude of the *greatest* part of the slaves after their arrival, the scantiness of their provision and its bad quality, their tyrannical and merciless discipline, are well known, and too painful to recollect. It is a law in Barbadoes, "that if any slave, under punishment by his master or his order, suffer in *life* or *limb*, no person shall be liable to any fine for the same. But if any man shall wantonly or cruelly kill his own slave, he shall pay in to the treasury £. 15."

With what reason or truth is it urged, that the condition of the Africans is *meliorated* by their slavery? They, not their masters, are the proper judges in this matter. Wretched as you may suppose their condition was in Africa, the nefarious commerce of foreigners may have been the principal cause of that wretchedness. Should foreigners desist from this commerce, and the holders of slaves propose to transport them back to Africa, how would their *mouth be filled with laughter, and their tongue with singing*? Instead of thinking their condition

dition meliorated by slavery, they most sincerely join in that execration on their oppressors : *Happy shall he be that taketh and dasheth thy little ones against the stones.* The imaginary expectation that death may transport them to their own country is their chief consolation. Under unlimited power, accustomed to the most inhuman usage, no example of mercy relenting for them being exhibited, no marvel that the language of insurgents is, *Death or conquest.* Their cries will sooner or later reach the ears of him to whom vengeance belongeth.

Will any one say, that their condition is meliorated by their being taught the knowledge of God and CHRIST ? How many of their masters are in a state of brutal ignorance in this respect ? A parish minister * in the West-Indies saith, that he “ drew up plain and easy instructions for the slaves, invited them to attend at particular hours on Lord’s-day, appointed hours at home, and exhorted their masters to encourage their attendance. But inconceivable was the listlessness with which he was heard, and bitter the censure heaped on him in return. It was suggested, that he aimed to render them incapable of being good slaves by making them Christians—Some who approved of the plan, did not think themselves obliged to co-operate : I stood,” says he, “ a rebel convict against the interest and majesty of planterhip.”

When Archbishop *Secker* asked what success the missionaries “ had in baptizing and converting negro slaves ? how the catechist at Coddington college in Barbadoes proceeded with those slaves that belonged to the college estate,” and whom he presumed had been instructed in Christianity ? He was answered, “ I found *one* old negro, who told me he could say all his catechism. I asked him, if he did not find himself much happier and better since he became

* Mr. Ramsay.

became a Christian, than he was before? Why, Sir, said he, I am old man, and as a driver am not put to common labour; but Christian not made for negro in this country. How so? What is your duty towards God? He repeated it. What is your duty towards your neighbor?—Ah, master, I don't say that no more. Why so? Because, master, I can't say it from my heart, if I think of white man."

Had African slaves the means of Christian instruction, had they been treated with humanity, still the making slaves of them hath been no more than *doing evil that good may come*. Christianity and humanity would rather have dictated the sending books and teachers into Africa, and endeavors for their civilization. Have they been treated as children of the same family with ourselves? as having the same Father, whose *tender mercies are over all his works*? as having the same natural prerogatives with other nations? Or have they been treated as outcasts from humanity? *

D

The

* The committee of the society in London, instituted in 1787, for the purpose of effecting the abolition of the slave trade, reported to the society, January 15, 1788, "that sundry specimens evince that a trade, of great national importance might be opened by once establishing the confidence of the natives." The sentiments and reasoning of a great commercial writer on this subject are just and forcible.

"If once a turn for industry and the arts was introduced, [into Africa] a greater quantity of the European produce and manufactures might be exported thither, than to any other country in the whole world. No country is richer in gold and silver. Here is a prodigious number of elephants, which would not only facilitate the inland intercourses of commerce, but also, in the teeth of these notable animals, afford a very beneficial branch of commerce. The fruitful rich lands, every where to be found upon the coasts and within the country, upon the banks of the rivers near the gold-coast and the slave-coast, would produce all the richest articles of the East and West-India commerce. It is melancholy to observe, that a country which has 10,000 miles sea-coast, and noble, large, deep rivers, should yet have no navigation; streams penetrating into the very centre of the country, but of no benefit to it; innumerable people, without knowledge of each other, correspondence, or commerce---Africa, stored with an inexhaustible treasure, and capable, under proper improvements, of producing so many things delightful as well as convenient, seems utterly neglected by those who are civilized themselves, and its own inhabitants quite unsolicitous of reaping the benefits which nature has provided for them. What it affords in its present rude, unimproved state, is solely given up to the gain of others, as if not

The Greeks and Romans, amidst their improvements in philosophy, arts and sciences, established slavery as far as they extended their conquests. Their rage for conquest had the world for its object. They made war without having received any injury. Captives taken in war were exposed to sale. And indeed all the ancient nations considered conquest as a just foundation for slavery. Some moderns have undertaken to defend the same principle. In an age and country so well acquainted with the rights of men, this kind of reasoning merits very little attention. It is, moreover, wholly inapplicable to the case of African slavery. Whatever just dominion conquerors may claim over the conquered must be founded in this, that the latter were the aggressors. Did the Africans first invade the rights of the nations who have carried on the slave trade? or give them a foundation of complaint? Were they ever conquered by their foreign invaders?

But the reasoning is not less unjust than inapplicable. The objects of a just war are the security of national rights, and indemnification for injuries. Superior force may enslave, but gives no right. It is inglorious, savage and brutal to insult a conquered enemy, and reduce him to the lowest servility.

“But did not the Jews make slaves of the Canaanites by the express command of God?” They did indeed. Those nations had *filled up their measure of iniquity*. The Supreme Sovereign devoted them

not the people only were to be sold for slaves to their fellow-creatures, but the whole country was captive, and produced its treasures merely for the use and benefit of the rest of the world, and not at all for their own. Instead of making slaves of these people, would it not rather become nations; who assume the name and character of Christians, to give them a relish for the blessings of life, by extending traffic into their country in the largest extent it will admit of, and introducing among them the more civilized arts and customs? While the slaving trade continues to be the great object of other nations, and these “promote the spirit of butchery and making slaves of each other among the negro princes and chiefs, their civilization, and the extension of trade into the bowels of the country, will be obstructed.”

[POSTLETHWAIT, Vol. I. p. 686; 727.]

them to destruction, and commissioned Israel to be the executioners of his justice. "Thou mayest not," said God, "consume them at once, lest the land become desolate, and the beasts of the field increase against thee. By little and little will I drive them out from before thee." Of those nations, remaining in the land, they might purchase bond-servants, and transmit them as an inheritance to posterity. The Gibeonites, one of these devoted nations, obtained a league of peace with Joshua, under pretence that they were a very remote people. When their stratagem was detected, he saved them alive, because of his league ; but he made them all bond-men, hewers of wood, and drawers of water. (Lev. 25. 44, 45, 46. Joshua chap. 9th) When a like warrant can be produced, it will authorize a like practice.

"But Ishmael was the son of a bond-woman. His posterity therefore can have no claim to freedom." This is not a just consequence ; nor is this objection supported by history. The prophecy concerning Ishmael was, "He will be a wild man ; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him." His posterity, the Arabians, have lived in war with the world. The Egyptians, Assyrians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Tartars and Turks have in vain attempted to subjugate them. They have been and are free and independent.

That the heathen have no right to any possession on earth, is an article of the Roman faith. The charters of Britain to her late colonies held out the same language. But is this the language of HIM, whose is "the world, and they that dwell therein?" who "hath made of one blood all nations of men to dwell on all the face of the earth ; and determined the bounds of their habitation?" In enslaving the *pagans* of Africa, have the *Christians* of Europe

rope and America proceeded on this principle, that the Author of their religion, whose *kingdom is not of this world*, hath commissioned them to seize on the possessions, and, what is more, on the persons, of those heathen? Among the enumerated articles of commerce in mystical Babylon in the day of her fall, *slaves and souls of men* closeth the account—intimating that this kind of commerce was the *consummation* of her wickedness. Let such as imitate the example, consider the consequence.

———“ Man’s obdurate heart does not
feel for man.

He finds his fellow guilty of a skin
Not colour’d like his own ; and having pow’r
T’ enforce the wrong, for such a worthy cause
Dooms and devotes him as his lawful prey.
Thus man devotes his brother, and destroys ;
And worse than all, and most to be deplor’d,
As human nature’s broadest, foulest blot,
Chains him, tasks him, and exacts his sweat
With stripes, that mercy with a bleeding heart
Weeps when she sees inflicted on a beast.
Then what is man ? And what man seeing this,
And having human feelings, does not blush,
And hang his head, to think himself a man ?” *

Our late warfare was expressly founded on such principles as these : “ All men are created equal : They are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights ; among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” Admitting these just principles, we need not puzzle ourselves with the question, whether a black complexion is a token of God’s wrath ? If attempts to account for the color of the blacks, by ascribing it to climate, or the state of society, or both, should not be perfectly satisfactory, (and perhaps they are not) shall

we therefore conclude, that they did not spring from the same original parents ? How then shall we account either for *their* origin or our *own* ? The Mosaic, which is the only account of the origin of mankind, doth not inform us what was the complexion of Adam and Eve. If we admit the Mosaic account, we cannot suppose that the Africans are of a different species from us : If we reject it, we have no account whence they or we sprang. Let us then receive the Mosaic history of the creation, till another and better appears. According to that, the Africans are our brethren. And, according to the principles of our religion, they are *children of the free-woman as well as we*. This instructs us, that *God is no respecter of persons, or of nations—hath put no difference between Jew and Greek, barbarian and Scythian*. In Christ Jesus, in whom it was foretold “all nations shall be blessed,” those “who sometimes were far off, are brought nigh, and have access by one Spirit unto the Father.” So that they “are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God.” The heathen will all be given him for his inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for a possession.

Why then should we treat our African brethren as the elder son in the parable treated the younger, offended at the compassion of their common parent towards him ? Why place them in a situation incapable of recovery from their lost state ? their state of moral death ? Did Jesus come to redeem us from the worst bondage ? Shall his disciples then enslave those whom he came to redeem from slavery ? who are the purchase of his blood ? Is this *doing to others*, as he hath commanded, *whatsoever we would that they should do to us* ? Is it to *love our neighbour as ourselves* ?

On a view of the wretched servitude of the Africans, some may suspect, that they must have been *sinners above all men, because they suffer such things*. This way of reasoning, however common, our Lord has reprov'd——particularly in the instance of the blind man ; of those who were slain by the fall of the tower in Siloam ; and of those whose blood Pilate mingled with the public sacrifices. All mankind are *the offspring of God*. His government over them is *parental*. Children may have the fullest proof that the government of their father is not capricious and tyrannic, but most wise and kind : At the same time, they cannot explain many parts of it ; but unreservedly submit to his pleasure, having the fullest confidence in his superior wisdom, his paternal care and affection.

That such as have been educated in slavish principles, justify and practise slavery, may not seem strange. Those who profess to understand and regard the principles of liberty should cheerfully unite to abolish slavery.

Our middle and northern states have prohibited any further importation of slaves. South-Carolina passed a prohibitory act for a limited time. Consistently with the federal constitution the traffic may be stopped in seventeen years ; and a duty of ten dollars may be laid on every slave now imported. By an act of the legislature of Connecticut, all blacks and mulattoes born within the state from March 1784, will be manumitted at the age of 25 years. The act of Pennsylvania liberates them at the age of twenty eight years. Such provision hath been made for the gradual abolition of slavery in the United States. Could wisdom and philanthropy have advanced further for the time ?

In the northern division of the United States, the slaves live better than one quarter of the white people.

people. Their masters are possessed of property ; nor is harder labor required of the slaves, than a great part of the masters perform themselves. Might the estate of the masters be exempt from the maintenance of their slaves, but very few would hesitate to manumit them.

In co-operating with the wise measures and benevolent intentions of the legislature of Connecticut, we shall do as much as can be desired to ease the condition of slavery, and extinguish the odious distinction. Humane masters, requiring no more than is just and equal, and affording to their servants the means of moral and religious instruction, take the only sure course to make them faithful. Many receive such kind treatment, and have such affection to their masters, that they wish to abide with them. Nor is it to be doubted but many others, who may wish to be manumitted, would soon repent their choice. Still the term *slave* is odious, be the master's yoke ever so light. And it is very questionable whether any servant can be *profitable* who is not a *voluntary* one.

The revolution in the United States hath given free course to the principles of liberty. One ancient kingdom, illuminated by these principles, and actuated by the spirit of liberty, hath established a free constitution. The spirit will spread, and shake the throne of despotic princes. Neither an habit of submission to arbitrary rule in church and state, nor the menaced interference of neighboring kingdoms, could prevent, or counterwork, a revolution, propitious in its aspect on the rights of other nations, and of mankind. No combination of European potentates can impede the progress of freedom. The time is hastening, when their subjects will not endure to be told, that no government shall exist in any nation but such as provides for the perpetuation

perpetuation of *absolute* monarchy, and the transmission of it to the families in *present* possession. The time is hastening, when no monarch in Europe shall tell his subjects, *Your silver and your gold are mine.*

The present occasion will be well improved, if we set ourselves to banish *all* slavish principles; and assert our liberty as men, citizens and Christians. We have all one Father: He will have all his offspring to be saved. We are disciples of one master: He will finally *gather together in one the children of God.* Let us unite in carrying into effect the purpose of the Saviour's appearance. This was to give *peace and good will to man*, and thus bring *glory to God on high.*

Being "one body in Christ, and every one members one of another;" we should take care "that there be no schism in the body." They who separate themselves, or separate others, without cause, are schismatics. Christ is not divided. A *religious* party is of all others the most odious and dangerous. The terms express a palpable contradiction. The dire effects of proselyting zeal in Romish, and even in Protestant, countries would have been prevented, had Christian liberty been understood, and the exercise of it permitted.

Whether ignorance or learning, weakness or craft, have bound the heaviest burthens in religion, we need not enquire. Each of them hath done much in this way in ages past. Happily for the present age of light and liberty, the spirit of bigotry and domination cannot encumber and debase Christianity as heretofore. The exercise of private judgment, an appeal to the scriptures, and the cultivation of Christian charity and philanthropy, will display the excellency of our religion.

To

To conclude : In vain do we assert our natural and civil liberty, or contend for the same liberty in behalf of any of our fellow-creatures, provided we ourselves are not made free from the condemnation and dominion of sin. If there is such a thing as slavery, the servant of sin is a slave—and *self-made*. The captive, prisoner and slave, in an outward respect, may be free in Christ, free indeed ; while he who enjoys full-external liberty, may, in regard to his inward man, be under the power of wicked spirits : These enter and dwell in an heart garnished to receive them. Jesus Christ, and no other, saveth from sin and wrath. The spirit of life quickeneth those who are dead in trespasses, and looseth those whom Satan hath bound. "If we be dead with him, we believe that we shall also live with him."

The new Jerusalem is free in a more exalted sense than the church on earth. True believers, "sealed with the holy Spirit of promise, have the *earnest* of their inheritance, until the redemption of the purchased possession." In that day of complete redemption, of glorious liberty, may God of his infinite mercy grant that we may meet all the ransomed of the Lord, with songs and everlasting joy, saying : "Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne ; and unto the lamb who was slain, and hath redeemed us to God by his blood, out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation. AMEN."
